



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Detroit District

Public Notice



Applicant: Hammond Port Authority

In Reply Refer To: Corps File No. 87-056-009-7

Date: February 17, 2004

Expires: March 7, 2004

Proposed Maintenance Dredging in Lake Michigan at Hammond, Indiana

Applicant: Hammond Port Authority, 701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN, 46320-1003.

Project Location: in Lake Michigan, Section 36, Township 37N, Range 10W, Lake County, Indiana. The site is located at the Hammond Marina, 701 Casino Center Drive, about 0.5 mile northerly from the intersection of Calumet Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard, Hammond, Indiana.

Federal Authority: The applicant has applied for a Department of the Army permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

Project Description: As shown on the attached plans, the applicant proposes to initially dredge about 1,200 cubic yards of material by mechanical means, from 3 areas offshore the boat launch ramp, totaling about 1 acre. Areas would be dredged to a depth of 11.0 feet below the Low Water Datum elevation of 577.8 feet based on 1985 IGLD. In subsequent years, up to 5,000 cubic yards of material would be dredged on an annual basis from the northwesterly portion of the overall 43.6 acre marina basin. The northwesterly 33 acre area with piers would be dredged to a depth of 11.0 feet below the Low Water Datum elevation of 577.8 feet based on 1985 IGLD. All dredged material would be placed on a barge, transferred to trucks, and hauled off-site to an upland disposal area. The purpose of the work is to provide adequate depths for small craft navigation.

Other Authorizations: The applicant has either received or requested the following governmental authorization:

Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Permit under Navigable Waterway Act, IC 14-29-1 and Navigable Waterway Rule 312 IAC 6.

Comments: We are publishing this notice in compliance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 320-330. Comments on the project should be submitted in writing and postmarked or delivered by the expiration date of this public notice. Comments of a positive or negative nature may be submitted. All responses must refer to file number 87-056-009-7. We will interpret a lack of response as meaning that there is no objection to the permit application.

Comments should be filed with: John Konik, Chief, Permit Evaluation Branch A, Regulatory Office, Detroit District, Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1027, Detroit, Michigan 48231. Comments may be e-mailed to: Charles.M.Simon@uscae.army.mil, but must include a name and mailing address.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation: The decision whether to issue the Department of the Army permit will be based on evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. These decisions will reflect the national concerns for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Endangered Species: We will review this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. We are not aware of the presence of any listed species or critical habitat at or in the vicinity of the proposed worksite. We invite information and/or comments regarding the potential presence of, or impacts to, any listed species or critical habitat.

Cultural Resources: The District Staff has reviewed existing information on historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, including the National Register of Historic Places. There are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The permit area has been so

extensively modified by modern development that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon an undisturbed historic property. The District Engineer invites responses to this Public Notice from federal, state and local agencies, historical and archaeological societies, Indian tribes, and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

Additional Information: Questions concerning this application may be directed to Charles M. Simon at the Corps of Engineers address listed above, or telephone number (313) 226-2221.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

John Konik
Chief, Permit Evaluation Branch A
Regulatory Office

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

We request that the above notice be conspicuously and continuously posted for the time period of this notice.